



Minutes

Committee #3

Transportation, Construction, Public Safety and Traffic

Committee #3 met Tuesday, January 21, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 30 West Central Street, Chippewa Falls, WI.

Council/Committee Members present: Mike Hanke, Bill Hicks, Jane Lardahl, and Mayor Hoffman.

Others present: Finance Manager/Treasurer Lynne Bauer, Fire Chief Tom Larson, Battalion Chief Mike Hepfler, City Inspector Paul Lasiewicz, Assistant City Engineer Matt Decur, Senior Engineering Technician Todd Berg, Police Chief Wendy Stelter, and City Clerk Bridget Givens.

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 am.

1. **Discuss Extended Contract for Statewide Structural Collapse Team Members between the State of Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management and the City of Chippewa Falls. Possible recommendations to the Council.**

Fire Chief Larson provided details regarding the contract which has been in place since 2007. Staff participates in training which would enable them to respond in the event of a catastrophic emergency, such as a major weather incident or terrorist attack. All costs associated with this program are fully reimbursed – it is completely cost neutral to the City.

Motion by Hicks/Lardahl to recommend approval of the Extended Contract for Statewide Structural Collapse Team Members between the State of Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, Division of Emergency Management and the City of Chippewa Falls and authorize the appropriate City Officials to execute such contract. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

2. **Discuss YMCA sign location including but not limited to proximity to right-of-way. Possible recommendations to the Council.**

Councilor Hanke was approached by former Council Member, Mike Dahlby regarding his concern with the location of the YMCA sign and its effect on public safety. Dahlby indicated it is difficult to see around the sign when at the intersection, and he has witnessed some near accidents as vehicles have to enter the crosswalk to see traffic coming from the north.

Inspector Lasiewicz explained the City's ordinance requires signage to be 15' back from the right of way. When the State acquired land from the YMCA during the street expansion project, this brought the sign out of compliance (though it could not be verified the sign was in the appropriate location at initial installation). Further discussion was had regarding the possibility of moving the stop line with the Committee indicating this would not fix the issue of noncompliance in regard to the sign location. The Committee thought it best for Lasiewicz to proceed with an order of compliance, allowing appropriate time for frost to be out of the ground for sign removal.

Motion by Hicks/Lardahl to recommend approval for City Inspector Lasiewicz to issue an order of compliance for the YMCA relative to their sign location. **All present voting aye, motion carried.**

3. Discuss Fire Department Station Study and issues/alternatives related thereto. Possible recommendations to the Council.

Chief Larson indicated Fire Station Two is in a condition where it needs replacement, and he has requested funding in the past to conduct a Fire Department Station Study. Currently, Station Two is too small to adequately store equipment and house personnel.

Larson shared that a majority of municipalities are moving away from neighborhood stations and consolidating into one "super station". This would allow for equipment, resources, and personnel to be managed out of one location. Currently, there is Fire Department equipment stored at Station One, Station Two (including outdoors), the fairgrounds, and the Street Department. It would be beneficial to store all equipment at one location.

Additional discussion ensued regarding potential locations for a new fire station and the benefits of consolidation. Councilor Hicks questioned if Station Two could be razed and rebuilt. Battalion Chief Hepfler advised there is not room for expansion as the southwest corner of the building is right at the lot line.

Hepfler has contacted a company to get some preliminary input on feasibility prior to the investment of funds. The question was raised if a study is merited or would it be more beneficial to spend the funds on engineering/design costs.

Hicks shared that Councilor Mason indicated if a study is completed, she would like a comprehensive study to look at staffing and equipment in addition to facilities. For example, how would discontinuing Fire/EMS service to other municipalities impact our staffing, revenue sources, and ISO rating. The Mayor questioned if a certain percentage of building costs could be passed on to other municipalities the City serves.

Hepfler was directed to gather the preliminary feasibility information he receives and bring it back to the Committee for additional discussion at the next meeting on February 18th.

Chief Stelter shared it is becoming a trend to house police and fire in the same facility and this option may want to be considered going forward.

No action taken.

4. Adjournment

Motion by Hicks/Lardahl to adjourn at 11:14 am. All present voting aye, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:
Mike Hanke, Chair